Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 2, line 3, with the following amended paragraph:

--There are a variety of other devices used to treat femoral fractures. Fractures of the neck, head or intertrochantor of the femur have been successfully treated with a variety of compression screw assemblies, which include, generally, a compression plate having a barreled member, a leg screw, and a compressing screw. The compression plate is secured to the exterior of the femur and the barreled member is inserted into a predrilled hole in the direction of the femoral head. The leg screw, which has a threaded end and a smooth portion, is inserted through the barrel member so that it extends across the break and into the femoral head. The threaded portion engages the femoral head. The compression screw connects the leg screw to the plate. By adjusting the tension of the compression~~s pressing~~ screw the compression of the fracture can be adjusted. The smooth portion of the leg screw must be free to slide through the barrel member to permit the adjustment of the compression screw. --

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 8, line 3, with the following amended paragraph:

--According to a yet another embodiment of the present invention, there is provided an intramedullary nail for use in orthopaedic surgery. The nail includes a body defining a longitudinal axis and a transverse axis. The transverse axis is normal to the longitudinal axis. The body defines ~~there~~ an aperture in the body. The aperture is substantially longer in the longitudinal axis than in transverse axis. The aperture defines an enlarged portion thereof along the longitudinal axis.—

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 21, line 28, with the following amended paragraph:

--Referring now to FIG. 1D, the distraction ~~gap 134~~ gap G2 is shown after a period of dynamization. The distraction gap of FIG. 1D is defined by a dimension G2 that is less than the distraction gap G1 of FIG. 1C. Also it should be appreciated that the fastener 146 has moved from the first position 148 to a second position 150, for example, centrally located in the aperture 118 of the nail 100. It should be appreciated that to provide for dynamization, an upper initial position of the fastener 146 in the aperture 118 is preferred.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 22, line 10, with the following amended paragraph:

-- According to the present invention and referring now to FIG. 2C, another embodiment of the present invention is shown as intramedullary nail 100C. The nail 100C is similar to the nail 100 of FIG. 2 except that the proximal portion 106C of the nail 100C includes a solitary proximal cross-hole 152C in addition to the aperture 118C. --

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 26, line 11, with the following amended paragraph:

-- For example and referring now to ~~in be~~ the aperture 118, for example, may be fastener 170, 172, 174, or fastener 176 respectively. After the appropriate fastener is positioned in the aperture 118, the distal portion 110 of the nail 100 may be secured to the long bone or tibia 132.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 27, line 7, with the following amended paragraph:

--Referring now to FIG. 6, another embodiment of the present invention is shown as intramedullary nail 300. Intramedullary nail 300 is similar to the nail 100 of FIGS. 1-5 except that the intramedullary nail 300 includes an aperture 318 that is different than the aperture 118 of the nail 100. For example, intramedullary nail 300 includes a ~~body to~~ body

302 similar to the body 102 of the nail. The body 302 includes a center portion 304 from which a proximal portion 306 extends.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 27, line 22, with the following amended paragraph:

--The central section 334 includes a distal end 338, which is rectangular but does not include internal threads. Fasteners (not shown) in the form of, for example, cortical screws as shown in FIGS. 1-4 may be associated with the distal end 338 of the aperture 318 and associated with the enlarged section 322 of aperture 318. The fasteners may be used in conjunction with aperture 318 to limit axial motion of the nail, but to permit radial movement of nail within the medullary canal of the tibia.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 28, line 14, with the following amended paragraph:

--For example, as shown in FIG. 7 intramedullary nail 400 includes a body 402. The body 402 is designed to fit into the canal 131 and is generally elongated. The body 402, to minimize weight and to maximize strength, may be hollow or cannulated and may include a central opening or cannula 414.—

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 40, line 7, with the following amended paragraph:

--Referring now to FIG. 18, the plug 441 is shown in position on the nail 400 and a fastener for example, fastener 474 is shown in position in the plug 441. As shown in FIG. 18 the fastener 474 may be positioned centrally within the plug 441 at first position 443. As the plug 441 biodegrades the ~~fastener 471~~ fastener 474 may migrate under dynamization to second position 445 shown in phantom.--